

**Application No.: 10/549,651**  
**Filing Date: January 8, 2007**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously presented) A bracing arrangement with overload protection comprising:

a first element to be braced;  
a second element to be braced against the first element;  
a bracing bolt bracing the first and second elements, wherein said bracing bolt is strained to its yielding point;  
a sleeve, which is braced and compressed against the second element to be braced with the bracing bolt and which goes through the first element to be braced; and  
a sleeve tensioning device engaging the sleeve and bracing the first element against the second element, the sleeve tensioning device releasing the sleeve to a pre-specified extent, wherein increasing the operating force acting on the first and second elements beyond an operating force threshold relaxes the sleeve relative to the bracing by the bracing bolt and breaks the bracing bolt.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Currently amended)** The bracing arrangement according to claim 1 A bracing arrangement with overload protection comprising:

a first element to be braced;  
a second element to be braced against the first element;  
a bracing bolt bracing the first and second elements, wherein said bracing bolt is strained to its yielding point;  
a sleeve, which is braced and compressed against the second element to be braced with the bracing bolt and which goes through the first element to be braced; and  
a sleeve tensioning device engaging the sleeve and bracing the first element against the second element, the sleeve tensioning device releasing the sleeve to a pre-specified extent, wherein increasing the operating force acting on the first and second elements beyond an operating force threshold relaxes the sleeve relative to the bracing by the bracing bolt and breaks the bracing bolt,

in which wherein the bracing bolt is more elastic than the sleeve.

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4. (Currently amended) The bracing arrangement according to claim 1 A bracing arrangement with overload protection comprising:

a first element to be braced;

a second element to be braced against the first element;

a bracing bolt bracing the first and second elements, wherein said bracing bolt is strained to its yielding point;

a sleeve, which is braced and compressed against the second element to be braced with the bracing bolt and which goes through the first element to be braced; and

a sleeve tensioning device engaging the sleeve and bracing the first element against the second element, the sleeve tensioning device releasing the sleeve to a pre-specified extent, wherein increasing the operating force acting on the first and second elements beyond an operating force threshold relaxes the sleeve relative to the bracing by the bracing bolt and breaks the bracing bolt,

in which wherein the sleeve is more elastic than the first element to be braced.

5. (Previously presented) The bracing arrangement according to claim 1, in which the bracing bolt is a stud with a screw thread for screwing it into a bore with an internal thread of the second element to be braced.

6. (Previously presented) The bracing arrangement according to claim 1, in which the sleeve has an external screw thread for screwing onto the sleeve tensioning element with an internal thread.

7. (Previously presented) A method for bracing at least two elements to be braced with the help of a bracing bolt, a sleeve and a sleeve tensioning device comprising:

bracing the sleeve by means of the bracing bolt against the second element to be braced, whereby the bracing bolt compresses the sleeve and the bracing bolt is strained to its yielding point,

bracing the first element to be braced on the second element to be braced with the sleeve tensioning device, whereby the sleeve tensioning device is braced with engagement with the sleeve projecting through the first element to be braced, in such a

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manner that the sleeve is relaxed relative to the preceding compression up to a pre-specified extent of release,

wherein an operating force acting on the first and the second elements leads, above a pre-specified threshold value, to a complete release of the sleeve and to the breaking of the bracing bolt.

8.     **(Cancelled)**
9.     **(Cancelled)**